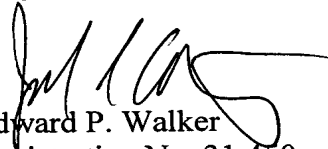


REMARKS

Claims 2, 3 and 5-7 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment claims 5 and 6 are amended. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,



Edward P. Walker  
Registration No. 31,450

Joel S. Armstrong  
Registration No. 36,430

EPW:JSA/cmm

Date: March 29, 2002

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p><b>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION</b> Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
---